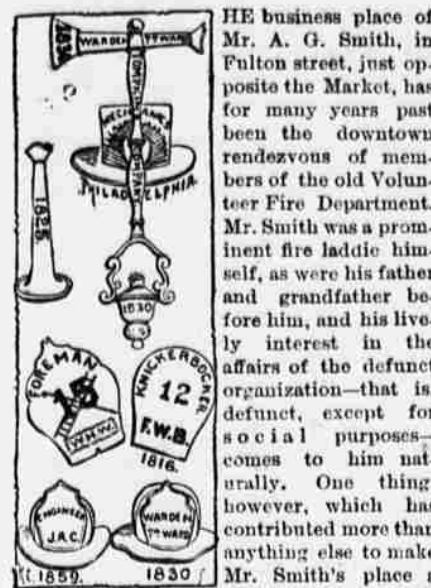


## RELICS OF FIRE LADDIES.

A UNIQUE COLLECTION RELATING TO OLD NEW YORK BOYS.

Helmet Fronts of Boys Who Ran with the Machine—W. M. Tweed's and ex-Mayor Wickham's Among Them—The Youth of Many Well-Known Citizens—Recalled by Pieces of Leather, Metal and Paper.



HE business place of Mr. A. G. Smith, in Fulton street, just opposite the Market, has for many years past been the downtown rendezvous of members of the old Volunteer Fire Department. Mr. Smith was a prominent fire laddie himself, as was his father and grandfather before him, and his lively interest in the affairs of the defunct organization—that is, defunct, except for social purposes—comes to him naturally. One thing, however, which has contributed more than anything else to make Mr. Smith's place a popular resort for his old comrades, is the fact that he has gathered together, in a little room back of his store, a perfect museum of curiosities and relics relating to the old Fire Department, which has proved of the utmost interest to his visitors.

The collection, of which Mr. Smith is very proud, for he has spent many years in getting it together, contains nearly twenty-five hundred different relics and mementoes. Some of these are very rare and cannot now be duplicated. For instance, there are 694 old helmet fronts for privates, thirty-five white officers' fronts and thirty-four presentation fronts, some of them of colossal size. These last, of course, were not meant to be worn, but were simply intended to be preserved as mementoes. A large one, presented by New Haven to the New York companies on the occasion of a visit many years ago, is a very handsome piece of work printed in oil colors. There are 236 metal badges, 835 silk laddies and many other portraits.

Some of the old fronts present the most interesting features of the collection. One, which is in an excellent state of preservation, belonged to ex-Mayor William H. Wickham when he was foreman of Hook and Ladder Company No. 15 and bears his name in full. Another has the inscription "W. M. Tweed," and belonged to the notorious "Ring" leader of the political gang that robbed the city of so many millions, when he ran with the famous "Big Six." Zephaniah Mills, Andrew J. Garvey, who was a member of Friendship Hook and Ladder Company, Alonzo Sibley, the clothier, and several other gentlemen who have since become prominent merchants or politicians in this city, many of them still living, are also represented by these battered old leather fronts.

The collection of certificates is very interesting, especially to the old volunteers, for it is extensive and goes back to the year 1810. A certificate of 1829 issued to Samuel Y. Smith, is different from any of the others and is believed to be the only one of its kind in existence. One of the most curious in existence is in the collection and is valued at \$100. The original owner is not known. A helmet of the Fifth District Hose Company No. 29, which was a famous organization in the old time and is also regarded as a great curiosity, as it is the only one of its kind in New York. The original owner is not known. A helmet of the Fifth District Hose Company No. 29, which was a famous organization in the old time and is also regarded as a great curiosity, as it is the only one of its kind in New York. The original owner is not known. A helmet of the Fifth District Hose Company No. 29, which was a famous organization in the old time and is also regarded as a great curiosity, as it is the only one of its kind in New York. The original owner is not known.

## EMILE ZOLA'S FIRST LOVE.

(Translated for THE WORLD from the French of "Jules Roche.")

WHEN 11 o'clock strikes on Sunday mornings the streets of Aix, in Provence, assume a peculiar aspect. It is the hour when the common folk and the aristocracy freely forget the distance which separates them during the rest of the day, to mingle under the same sacred arches in adoration of the same God; the hour when pious devotion hastens its step towards the Cathedral of the Holy Saviour, when the gilded prayer-books glitter in daintily gloved female hands.

But what characterizes this hour more than all else, what marks it from one end of the town to the other—even to those who have dropped all religious observances, the long files (like flocks of sheep) of little boys in uniform and girls in white dresses which pass through the streets, two by two, slipping on the wet pavement as grass plots, and marching along the rows of old mansions, as cold and cheerless in appearance as tombstones.

The column which has just come into sight at the upper end of the street, has an appearance hardly in accordance with the duty they are supposed to be fulfilling. It is composed of about thirty little boys dressed in bottle-green cloth trimmed with blue, who seem to be trying to hide the enmity of a pious performance under an assumption of pious cheerfulness. They perceive a file of girls in white dresses coming up the street and passing into the church, and each of the young lads utters the opinion of all these young lads as to the real mission of cathedral bells on earth.

"The Notre Dame boarding-school," said a lady to her son, as they raised themselves against the door to lead the head of the column pass in. The Notre Dame boarding-school occupied the narrow aisle which divides in the centre the seats of worshippers. The last scholar who enters is a young lad about nine or ten years old, his robust form in strange contrast with his timid and profound glances. The mere fact of entering the church seems to greatly embarrass him. His right hand, half hidden in his pocket, trembles perceptibly; he gazes steadfastly along the row of seats occupied by the short white dresses.

At the very end of one of the right rows he has perceived a little pink hat whose unknown charms from the pretty face of a dark-complexioned young girl.

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## PUSHING WOMEN.

There Are Several Kinds; Some Get Along and Some Do Not.

The world is not pushing women, who, not satisfied with the goods the gods have provided, are still reaching after something else. It does not follow that they are poor or obscure; they may drive in their carriages, have their names blazoned in every daily fashion report, live in ease and luxury, but still, if their nature is pushing, push they will, and will not be happy in any condition, even upon a throne. To be sure, the pushing woman is not a new thing, but the modern woman is a new thing. She usually begins by pushing for the necessities—society, excitement and education. To get herself recognized in whatever capacity she chooses to fill in for literature, is a push herself into the foremost ranks, not always by virtue of her merits, but by sheer persistence, pertinacity and audacity. If her society is not a barrier which has proved effectual to keep her out, in travelling she secures the best seat, at table she gets the best service, first come first served is reversed in her case.

Strange as it may seem, the pushing woman is not always disagreeable; if she were, all her efforts would perhaps come to naught. She may be vulgar, she may be selfish, but she must be amiable; she must know something of the nature of the game she is playing, and she must not be content with the first prize, but must push on to the second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth, eleventh, twelfth, thirteenth, fourteenth, fifteenth, sixteenth, seventeenth, eighteenth, nineteenth, twentieth, twenty-first, twenty-second, twenty-third, twenty-fourth, twenty-fifth, twenty-sixth, twenty-seventh, twenty-eighth, twenty-ninth, thirtieth, thirty-first, thirty-second, thirty-third, thirty-fourth, thirty-fifth, thirty-sixth, thirty-seventh, thirty-eighth, thirty-ninth, fortieth, forty-first, forty-second, forty-third, forty-fourth, forty-fifth, forty-sixth, forty-seventh, forty-eighth, forty-ninth, fiftieth, fifty-first, fifty-second, fifty-third, fifty-fourth, fifty-fifth, fifty-sixth, fifty-seventh, fifty-eighth, fifty-ninth, sixtieth, sixty-first, sixty-second, sixty-third, sixty-fourth, sixty-fifth, sixty-sixth, sixty-seventh, sixty-eighth, sixty-ninth, seventieth, seventy-first, seventy-second, seventy-third, seventy-fourth, seventy-fifth, seventy-sixth, seventy-seventh, seventy-eighth, seventy-ninth, eightieth, eighty-first, eighty-second, eighty-third, eighty-fourth, eighty-fifth, eighty-sixth, eighty-seventh, eighty-eighth, eighty-ninth, ninetieth, ninety-first, ninety-second, ninety-third, ninety-fourth, ninety-fifth, ninety-sixth, ninety-seventh, ninety-eighth, ninety-ninth, one hundredth, one hundred and first, one hundred and second, one hundred and third, one hundred and fourth, one hundred and fifth, one hundred and sixth, one hundred and seventh, one hundred and eighth, one hundred and ninth, one hundred and tenth, one hundred and eleventh, one hundred and twelfth, one hundred and thirteenth, one hundred and fourteenth, one hundred and fifteenth, one hundred and sixteenth, one hundred and seventeenth, one hundred and eighteenth, one hundred and nineteenth, one hundred and twentieth, one hundred and twenty-first, one hundred and twenty-second, one hundred and twenty-third, one hundred and twenty-fourth, one hundred and twenty-fifth, one hundred and twenty-sixth, one hundred and twenty-seventh, one hundred and twenty-eighth, one hundred and twenty-ninth, one hundred and thirtieth, one hundred and thirty-first, one hundred and thirty-second, one hundred and thirty-third, one hundred and thirty-fourth, one hundred and thirty-fifth, one hundred and thirty-sixth, one hundred and thirty-seventh, one hundred and thirty-eighth, one hundred and thirty-ninth, one hundred and fortieth, one hundred and forty-first, one hundred and forty-second, one hundred and forty-third, one hundred and forty-fourth, one hundred and forty-fifth, one hundred and forty-sixth, one hundred and forty-seventh, one hundred and forty-eighth, one hundred and forty-ninth, one hundred and fiftieth, one hundred and fifty-first, one hundred and fifty-second, one hundred and fifty-third, one hundred and fifty-fourth, one hundred and fifty-fifth, one hundred and fifty-sixth, one hundred and fifty-seventh, one hundred and fifty-eighth, one hundred and fifty-ninth, one hundred and sixtieth, one hundred and sixty-first, one hundred and sixty-second, one hundred and sixty-third, one hundred and sixty-fourth, one hundred and sixty-fifth, one hundred and sixty-sixth, one hundred and sixty-seventh, one hundred and sixty-eighth, one hundred and sixty-ninth, one hundred and seventieth, one hundred and seventy-first, one hundred and seventy-second, one hundred and seventy-third, one hundred and seventy-fourth, one hundred and seventy-fifth, one hundred and seventy-sixth, one hundred and seventy-seventh, one hundred and seventy-eighth, one hundred and seventy-ninth, one hundred and eight